



# Workforce Board

## Electronic Newsletter

From the desk of Ellen O'Brien Saunders, Executive Director

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### College Admission Standards Highlight March Board Meeting

A discussion of the Higher Education Coordinating Board's proposal for minimum college admission standards (see separate article below) will highlight the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board's March 31 meeting. Venue for the event, which is open to the public, will be the State Investment Board, 2100 Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia. The meeting is from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Other topics on the Board's agenda include discussion and action on an amendment to the guidelines for the Workforce Development Councils' strategic and operational plan and the process for plan approval, and the policy for the Eligible Training Provider list for next year. The Board will also conduct preliminary discussions on policies regarding use of incentive funds and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) 10 percent discretionary funds as well as WIA targets for 2006 and 2007.

People needing special accommodations can contact Darlene Bartlett at least seven days in advance at 360.753.5677, or [dbartlett@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:dbartlett@wtb.wa.gov).

## **Senate Overwhelmingly Approves Perkins, So Does House Committee**

The U.S. Senate has voted overwhelmingly in favor of reauthorizing Perkins as has the House Education and Workforce Committee.

The move, however, has not met favor with the Administration. The Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings has written to both the House Committee and Senate chairs expressing her “strong opposition” to its version of Perkins.

In her letter she states that House Resolution (H.R.) 366 does “little to address the urgent challenge that has been highlighted by both President Bush and the nation’s governors to reform our nation’s high schools.” She further points out that the President’s fiscal 2006 budget request proposes to eliminate funding for Perkins, and adds that research indicates that various components of the Act have been ineffective.

The Perkins bill, S.250, which the Senate will take to its conference with the House would strengthen local accountability, put a stronger focus on academics, and establish separate secondary and postsecondary indicators. Coincidentally, it is also the first time “career and technical” is used as the preferred terminology for the field. The bill also proposes keeping Tech-Prep as a separate program and maintains state administrative funding at 5 percent.

Like its Senate counterpart, H.R. 366 also supports increased accountability, requiring local as well as state performance targets, and the development and implementation of improvement plans where and when needed. Local areas failing to meet their goals could be subject to sanctions. The bill further states that student academic standards should link to those of No Child Left Behind, and that math and science education incorporate the use of technology. Amendments to restore 2 percent state administrative funding to 5 percent and provide separate funds for Tech-Prep were defeated.

H.R. 366 goes to the full House sometime after Easter. Once approved, it goes to a Senate/House conference committee which will negotiate a final resolution between the two versions.

For more details on Perkins or WIA reauthorization, which also is passing through the House and Senate, contact Bryan Wilson at 360.753.0891, or [bwilson@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:bwilson@wtb.wa.gov).

## **New National Home for Credential**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Center for Workforce Preparation (CWP) is the new national home for the Work Readiness Credential. This project was initiated by the National Institute for Literacy and the National Association of Manufacturers.

The credential, which will be launched nationally in 2006, is based on standards defined by business for entry-level work readiness. It reflects the knowledge and skills that front-

line workers, supervisors, educators, and other workforce experts agree are most important to successful performance of entry-level work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. "Our business members across the country will immediately benefit from this national work readiness credential," says Jan Magill, Senior Program Officer at the CWP. "With its national portability and cross-industry standards, the credential will help ensure a high standard of employee preparation and performance. We are eager to work with the states (Florida, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Washington, and the District of Columbia) that are field testing the credential."

The credential builds upon the widely recognized Equipped for the Future Adult Basic Education content standards. These standards have been adopted by 38 states, including Washington, and over 600 Adult Basic Education programs nationwide since 1994.

To date, over 75 business representatives from companies throughout Washington have participated in the credential project. The Institute for Workforce Development and Economic Sustainability of the Association of Washington Business has been instrumental in convening industry focus groups and conducting statewide marketing.

For more information, or to get involved with the project, please contact Pam Lund at 360.586.8678.

## **Higher Education Coordinating Board Proposes More Math and Science Before College**

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) has proposed new minimum standards for entrance into the state's four-year public institutions. These include increasing the math requirement from three to four years (currently, a science course can be substituted for the fourth year of math); revising the two-year science requirement to include two years of lab-based coursework and a year of algebra-based coursework; and adding a requirement that students take at least three, yearlong college prep courses in each year of high school, including the senior year.

In announcing its decision, the HECB gave two reasons for increasing minimum admission standards: the current standards have not been comprehensively examined since 1988, and higher standards were needed to reduce the number of freshmen who require remedial instruction when they get to college.

Public hearings will be held around the state beginning April 7 at 4:00 PM in Spokane at the WSU Riverpoint Campus. Other dates/venues are listed below.

April 12	3:00 PM	Highline Community College, Library Board Room
April 19	4:00 PM	Central WA University, Student Union, Yakama Room
April 25	4:00 PM	Tacoma Community College, Baker Room
May 3	4:00 PM	WSU Vancouver, Rooms SS 129-130

For more information about the HECB's proposed new admission proposals, contact Madeleine Thompson at 360.753.5653, or [mthompson@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:mthompson@wtb.wa.gov).

## **Student 2 Student Coming to a Classroom Near You**

Are you ready? Washington juniors and seniors will be moving into classrooms across the state this month in an effort to raise awareness about high school and how it can be a springboard for success. Discussions will center on informing younger students about the new state and local graduation requirements, encouraging them to relate the requirements to how they define success, and helping them begin to set academic goals and create personal plans.

Those involved in the project have all undergone training to lead two-class-period lessons using videos and scripts prepared by students for students in their schools. Promotional handouts are also available, and to review toolkit materials and/or get more information about how your school can participate, visit [www.k12.wa.us/s2s](http://www.k12.wa.us/s2s).

Student 2 Student is sponsored by the Washington Student Engagement Initiative, which is a collaboration between the Washington Association of Student Councils, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington Association of School Administrators, Washington School Counselors Association, and the Partnership for Learning.

## **Briefly**

*MultiCare Wins Excellence in Community Partnership Award:* MultiCare's Health Partnership has once again received recognition at its Annual President's Award ceremony, receiving, for the second time in a row, an Excellence in Community Partnership Award for its collaborative work on the 2004 Nurse Camp. The camp provided an opportunity for 30 students from diverse backgrounds to be exposed to nursing careers at MultiCare, and nursing program opportunities at Pacific Lutheran University and Tacoma Community College. Excellent work everyone!

For more information about the camp or the award, contact Shema Hanebutte, Pierce County Health Services Careers Council, 253.594.7940, [lhanebutte@pic.tacoma.wa.us](mailto:lhanebutte@pic.tacoma.wa.us)

*Have a Potential Leader? Time to Sign Them up for Sector Skills Academy:* The Sector Skills Academy, a joint project of the Aspen Institute's Workforce Strategies Initiative, the National Network of Sector Partners and Public/Private Ventures, is accepting applications through April 1 for its first leadership class.

The academy is a year-long program involving workshops, mentoring, technical assistance, and peer support especially designed for leaders from community-based organizations, community colleges, labor-management partnerships, and business associations. During the four, three-day workshops participants will hear from leading sectoral practitioners, share ideas and experiences, and have the opportunity to work one-on-one with experienced professionals serving as mentors.

To learn more about the Academy, visit [www.sectorkillsacademy.org](http://www.sectorkillsacademy.org).

## **Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

Still not too late to sign up for the *Washington Technology Center* first statewide summit **April 8** in Seattle at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. The one-day conference will discuss the state's economic potential in technology during the morning, and in the afternoon focus on Energy, Life Sciences, Defense and Security, and Nanotechnology. More details and registration at [www.watechcenter.org](http://www.watechcenter.org).

The *Washington State Quality Award* Annual Baldrige Performance Excellence Symposium takes place **May 3** at the SeaTac Doubletree Inn. Keynote speakers include Joe Alexander, Dean of Kenneth W. Monfort College of Business; Christy Stephenson, CEO of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; and Paula Marshall-Chapman, CEO of The Bama Companies. Registration is \$195 for the 8-3:30PM conference. More details at [www.wsqa.net](http://www.wsqa.net).

**Various dates-Spring through Autumn.** The National Council on Employment Policy and the Sar Levitan Center at John Hopkins University are offering a seminar series entitled *Building Blocks for Youth Program Success* in seven cities around the country. Targeted at youth program managers, directors, and practitioners, each day-long seminar costs \$175. The series kicks off in Boston in early May before heading to Los Angeles, Kansas City, Dallas, Chicago, and Atlanta. Please contact Darnell Adams at 410.516.7169, [levitan@jhu.edu](mailto:levitan@jhu.edu) for more details.

Mark the dates **August 14-17** for the Washington Association for Career and Technical Education's annual summer conference in Yakima. More information closer to the date.

And save **October 25-26** for the Workforce Board's annual Workforce Strategies conference in Spokane.

## **Funding Opportunities**

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, a nonprofit organization that promotes better health through partnerships between communities and institutions of higher education, is accepting applications for its eighth annual Introductory Service Learning Institute June 17-20 in Leavenworth. The Institute is designed for both new and experienced service-learning practitioners (faculty, staff, and community partners). Deadline for applications is April 15 and can be accessed at <http://www.ccph.info/>.

The Beaumont Foundation of America (BFA) provides grants of technology equipment to hospitals, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies that offer programming for clients within specific areas such as college and university scholarship programs; foster care and mentoring programs for children; people with disabilities; and restart programs for released offenders. BFA provides the technology grants on behalf of individuals with the expectation that these entities provide technical and programmatic support. Competitive community Letters of Interest will be accepted online from March 28 to April 22 at [www.bmtfoundation.com/bfa/us/public/en/grants/community/](http://www.bmtfoundation.com/bfa/us/public/en/grants/community/).

The American Dental Association (ADA) Foundation has announced a Request for Proposal titled *Enhancing the Dental School Faculty Workforce* to stimulate the development of innovative methods with which to recruit and retain new dental faculty

members. Proposals of up to \$100,000 will be considered if submitted by not-for-profit organizations in the United States and its territories. Examples of qualified organizations include Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited dental schools and advanced education programs, dental specialty organizations, and national dental related organizations. Deadline is June 1. More details are available at [www.ada.org/ada/prod/adaf/](http://www.ada.org/ada/prod/adaf/).

## Resources

*Workforce3 One Offers Information on President's High-Growth Job Training Initiative:* The Employment and Training Administration has launched Workforce3 One, a website designed to promote the objectives of the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative. A collaborative effort of the U.S. Department of Labor, the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, and the National Association of Workforce Boards, the site provides web-based seminars and continually updated research and information.

One of the tools on the site is the Demand-Driven Quick Start Action Planner, a self-assessment tool designed to help workforce investment system leaders and stakeholders analyze current strengths and develop a plan of action for a demand-driven approach. Using a list of demand-driven indicators, the action planner allows the user to assess their level of demand-driven activity, and decide areas to focus on. Based on the responses, the tool provides a custom report, including a list of action items and resources, to help the local system in planning and implementation.

For more information on Workforce3 One, go to [www.workforce3one.org](http://www.workforce3one.org).

*New Career Exploration Tool Launched:* [www.VirtualJobShadow.com](http://www.VirtualJobShadow.com) is a new career exploration tool created for middle school, high school, and college age students. By clicking onto the site, students are able to experience online, in a video format, "a day in the life of" people in careers in each of the 16 career clusters. For ordering information, or to sample the web-based product, go to [www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org) and click on "States' Career Clusters/Experience VirtualJobShadow.com."

*Tenth Annual Report out on Status of Women in the States:* The Institute for Women's Policy Research has issued its national overview of women's status across the country. The publication is one of a series dealing with a wide range of statistics on women, their economic status, and the disparities that exist by race, ethnicity, and region. Washington, incidentally was rated the fourth best state for women in the country in 2004 with an honorable mention going to Oregon. Copies cost \$20 and can be ordered from [www.iwpr.org](http://www.iwpr.org).